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The Philanthropic Work of Josephine Shaw Lowell; Containing a Biographical Sketch of her Life, together with a Selection of her Public Papers and Private Letters. Collected and arranged for publication by WILLIAM RHINELANDER STEWART. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xvi, 584. \$2.00.)

Mr. Stewart, himself a colleague of Mrs. Lowell, and, as President of the New York State Board of Charities, conversant at first hand with much of her work, has made this book just what it ought to be. The story of Mrs. Lowell's social activities, beginning in her girlhood during the Civil War and continued till her death in 1905, typifies and illuminates the social development of the period, a development which she took a noteworthy part in shaping.

The enumeration of her activities suggests by their sequence the significance of the succeeding years and at the same time serves as the best guide to what material may be sought in this volume. The Woman's Central Association of Relief for the Army and Navy of the United States claimed her during the war; the Freedman's Association, immediately after. Then followed her work on the the Visiting Committee of Bellevue and other hospitals, which, with Miss Louisa Schuyler, she helped to form in 1872; her important work, from 1872 on, in connection with the State Charities Aid Association; her appointment in 1876 as the first woman commissioner of the New York State Board of Charities; and the founding, very largely through her efforts, of the New York Charity Organization Society in 1882. With this group of activities may be classified her manifold efforts for the improvement of public institutions and for a more intelligent and kindly treatment of their inmates; for the segregation of the different classes then herded in promiscuous poorhouses; for a separate reformatory for women; for state custodial care of feeble-minded women; for state care of all indigent insane (secured in 1898); for dependent children; for police matrons in station houses; for a labor test wood-yard (1887) and municipal lodging houses (1896); and the important relief work of the panic year 1893-4 in which her leadership was of nation-wide import.

In a somewhat different field lay her efforts on behalf of civil service reform (the Women's Auxiliary Association was formed by her in 1895 at the desire of Carl Schurz), of equal suffrage, and through the Woman's Municipal League of the City of New

York, organized by her efforts, for civic reform in the anti-Tammany campaigns of 1894 and 1897. She was actively interested in the movement for international peace, to which she gave herself especially at the time of the International Peace Congress in 1904, and in the cause of the Filipinos.

Her pioneer work in behalf of playgrounds and recreation piers began at least as far back as 1890. Even more modern is her interest in labor questions which led her in 1889 to withdraw from the State Board of Charities in order to give her time to this set of problems. Her pronouncements on prison labor, on strikes and conciliation, on "workingmen's rights in property created by them," and on the living wage, are interesting, sometimes surprisingly radical. An active friend of the Working Women's Society (organized 1886), she was first president of the Consumer's League (1891-96), and influential in securing such reforms as the appointment of women factory inspectors.

It is well that Mr. Stewart's volume contains so much of Mrs. Lowell's own direct and effective presentation of her views. The unanalyzable sense of personality which is the salt of all biography nobly savors this whole book.

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Social Conditions in Provincial Towns. First Series: Portsmouth; Worcester, Cambridge, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Oxford, Leeds.
Edited by MRS. BERNARD BOSANQUET. (London: Macmillan and Company. 1912. Pp. 82. 1s.)

In this little booklet several writers, each considering only one community, undertake to draw a brief verbal sketch of the social, economic, and sanitary conditions that prevail. For conciseness and graphic description of the housing problems, the problems of unemployment, morality, poverty, and vice, the work leaves little to be desired. From the point of view of the interest that the ordinary citizen may manifest in his own community these sketches may serve to rejuvenate some of the efforts, either local or national, towards solving the serious difficulties that are represented. The student of facts, however, will find that much that is said in the articles is based upon personal observation and opinion which cannot be verified by figures and other evidence which is usually presented in sociological studies of communities. The American